

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017996

64

ORIGIN EA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017996

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CVIS, PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJT: VISAS FOR NORTH KOREANS

1. US ORGANIZERS OF XIV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORICAL SCIENCES HAVE ASKED DEPARTMENT FOR VIEWS ON ATTENDANCE BY NORTH KOREAN DELEGATES. PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING CONGRESS IN SAN FRANCISCO IN AUGUST 1975 AND EXPECTS 2500 FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SOUTH KOREAN HISTORIANS. EIGHT NORTH KOREAN HISTORIANS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN ATTENDING.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING, DEPT HAS DECIDED TO ISSUE VISAS TO QUALIFIED NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND HISTORIANS CONGRESS. LAST YEAR U.S. HOSTS OF 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU) PLANNED FOR WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER 1976 WERE ASSURED REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ICSU MEMBERS COULD ATTEND. WE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 017996

ALSO INTEND TO GIVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO US AMATEUR

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, WHICH IS MAKING BID TO HOST 1978 WORLD AQUATIC CHAMPIONSHIP, AND U.S. TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION WHICH HOPES TO HOST 1979 WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

3. WE PLAN TO INFORM KOREAN EMBASSY OF OUR DECISION ON JANUARY 28, USING FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- AS ROKG AWARE, IN RECENT YEARS NORTH KOREA HAS INCREASINGLY PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

-- ORGANIZERS OF SEVERAL MAJOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES BEING HELD IN U.S. HAVE ASKED FOR ASSURANCES THAT PARTICIPANTS FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S. DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL BE ISSUED VISAS.

-- WE WISH TO MAINTAIN SUITABILITY OF U.S. AS SITE FOR SUCH CONFERENCES.

-- QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE HAS ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH: XIV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORICAL SCIENCES, 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ICSU, WORLD AQUATIC CHAMPIONSHIP AND WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

-- QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH KOREA, CUBA, NORTH VIET NAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S. DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND ON A SELECTED BASIS IF THEY APPLY FOR VISAS.

-- THIS DOES NOT MEAN CHANGE IN OUR GENERAL VISA POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA.

-- USSR HAS ISSUED VISAS TO SOME ROK CITIZENS. WE HOPE OUR ACTION WILL ENCOURAGE FURTHER CONTACTS BETWEEN ROK AND USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

-- WE WISH ROKG TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE. INGERSOLL

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